

Snapshots

2021-2022
Issue 8
for meeting of
January 5
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Winter Light, by Marina Leyderman

It was an eventful December, though it may seem like it was a long time ago.

Steve Rees was the moderator for our seventh meeting of the season, and final regular meeting of 2021, where he synthesized many of the approaches we've used this year in our desire for more useful and honest discussions. We explored the stories within photos, and the stories around photos. We were also joined by our guest Stephen Starkman, who impressed us all with his photography and insights.

Impressive photography and insights were also in store for us at our year-end special meeting, where Canadian photographer Richard Martin took us on a guided tour through his work and his creative process. As he said, in a casually profound way: "seeing takes time, just as having friends takes time."

Certainly this is an excellent group for both.

Upcoming Meetings

January 5
Leif

January 19
Craig

February 2
Marie

At the Toronto Focal Forum we share a passion for the printed photograph: it's our chosen means of creative expression, so we strive for artistic and technical excellence. Our candid print reviews are times for diverse work and different ideas, creating an invigorating, ongoing conversation about our experiences in art and in life. These evenings are times of inspiration, honing our craft of clear vision and communication, enriching our photographic pursuits. This is the measure of our success.

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The Apple Tree, by Katherine Keates

Images Shown, December 1:

Stephen Starkman

Oaxaca

Allan Flagel

Can You Feel the Electricity

Marvin Cooper

All Done

Tom Yates

Jacket

Marina Leyderman

Winter Light

Sue Curtis

Big Sky Country

Michael Anderson

Waves

Katherine Keates

The Apple Tree

Vincent Sheridan

Enter All!

Avi Cohen

The Blues

Marie Algieri-Goldgrub

Vines in the Round

Nick Janushewski

Hard Access

Dass

Visitor Parking

Judy Griffin

Autumn Montage

Luba Citrin

Force of Nature

David Kennedy

Winter Trail

Kas Stone

The Way Forward

Mandeep Bal

Humber Bay Bridge

Guy St Louis

Inside Out

Leif Petersen

Frosty Night

My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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Visitor Parking, by Dass

Moderator's Guidance for January 5

from Leif Petersen

This season's objective has been to provide useful, meaningful and honest review of the submitted images. Going by the lively, thoughtful discussions and feedback, we've been very successful.

In preparation for the January 5th meeting, I've gone back through this season's Snapshots to reacquaint myself with each moderator's approach and I believe they've pretty much covered it. So, for the most part, I'm going to take an "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach, similar to what Steve Rees did in our last meeting.

You'll have the opportunity to introduce your image; it's up to you whether you do or hold your comments until the critiques are in. I also encourage you to ask the photographer a question, which will help to understand their thought process. Beyond that, if you like it, don't like it, it doesn't work for you, etc., back it up with an explanation.

Having said that, I would like to try something else, which recognizes that, even though we process our photographs in a 'lightroom', we are printers. With that in mind, I believe that some images are best viewed digitally, while others would make a very successful print. We've often heard comments something like, "that would look great as a large print" or "I'd hang it on my wall". Think about whether the submitted images would work as prints or are they best viewed digitally. It's certainly subjective, but then isn't all art?

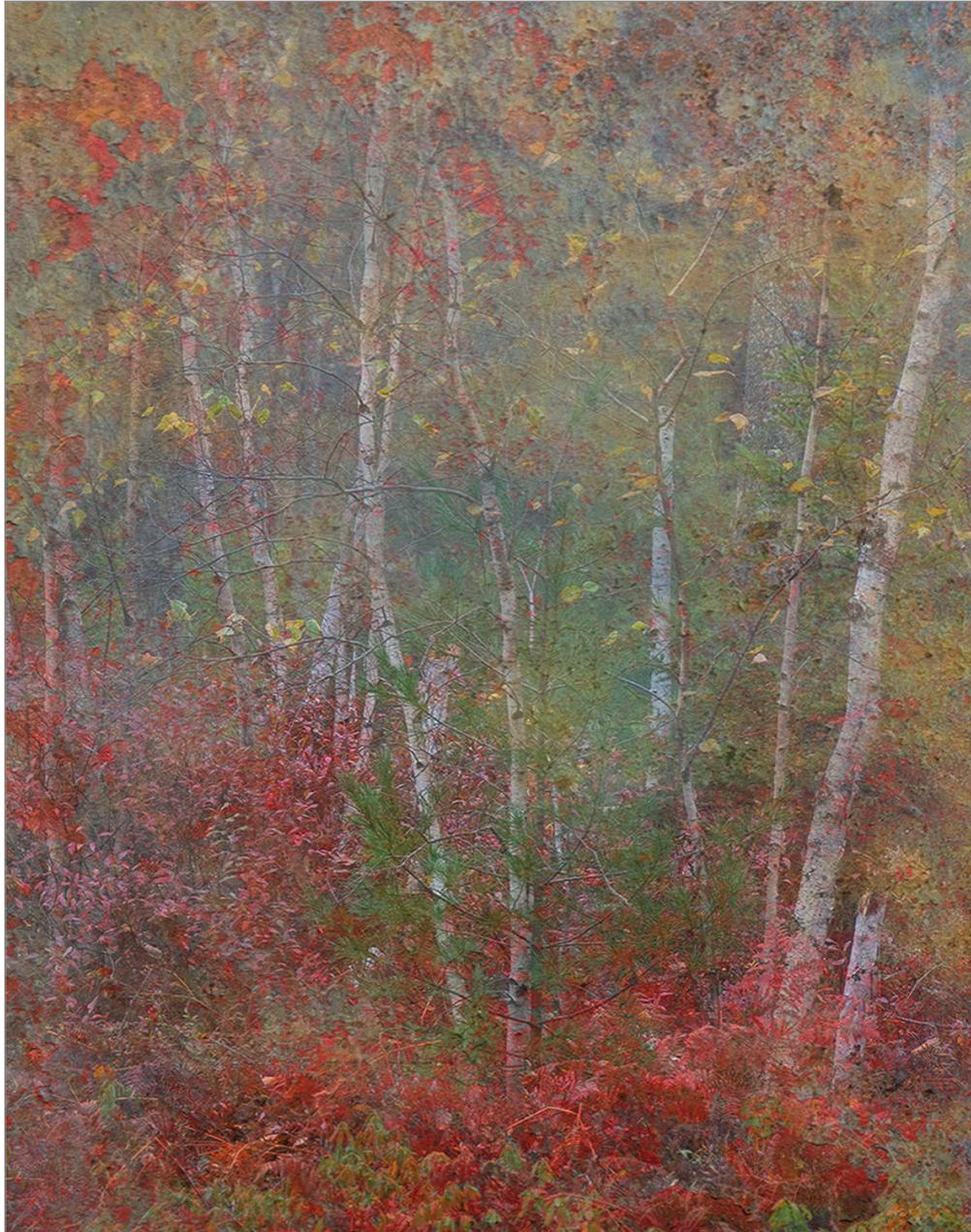
Please take the opportunity to view the images in the gallery prior to the meeting so that you can collect your thoughts for meaningful, concise comments. It wouldn't hurt to review ['A Message from the President'](#) in Issue 1 of Snapshots as well as the ['Going Deeper'](#) article in Issue 3.

I never look for a photograph. The photograph finds me and says,
"I'm here!" and I say, "Yes I see you. I hear you."

– Ruth Bernhard

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Autumn Montage, by Judy Griffin

In the end we are all just clouds wandering around without fighting off the winds.
– *Sijdah Hussain*

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Half the fun of photography for me is to try to see the world a little differently than I used to do.

*Above: Can You Feel the Electricity,
by Allan Flagel*

*Right: All Done,
by Marvin Cooper*



We should all carry two slips of paper in our pockets: one that says "I am ashes and dust," and one that reads "The world was made for me."

– Marcia Bjornerud

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I love being on the water, and photographing water.
This image was taken on the Atlantic coast of Portugal.

Top: The Blues, by Avi Cohen

Above: Waves, by Michael Anderson

I would like to end with this thought: that when we reject the single story,
when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.

– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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mandeep singh bal
2021

*Above: Humber Bay Bridge,
by Mandeep Bal*

*Left: The Way Forward,
by Kas Stone*



This image is my response to the news this week about rising COVID numbers, the new Omicron variant and devastating floods on Canada's east and west coasts that have conspired to throw so many people's hopes and plans into uncertainty. Again!

Sometimes "the way forward" seems an obscure and frightening direction indeed.

If I take the time to ask, and if I take the time to see,
and if I take the time to reach out, I can build that bridge between my world and theirs.
I can reach down into that river and take out what I need to get through this world.

– Utah Phillips

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How to Tie a Turban

by Mandeep Bal

Turban is an integral part of men and women practicing Sikh religion, also known as Sikhism. One of the edicts of Sikhism is not to cut your hair, and to maintain it in a turban.

As per Sikhism God is the supreme, and one must cover his/her head in order to pay respect. That's why turban has become an integral part of Sikh faith.

I created this series to show how a Sikh man ties his turban every day. The process is same for Sikh women, however they tie their turbans in a different style.



If the photographer is interested in the people in front of his lens, and if he is compassionate, it's already a lot. The instrument is not the camera but the photographer.

– Eve Arnold

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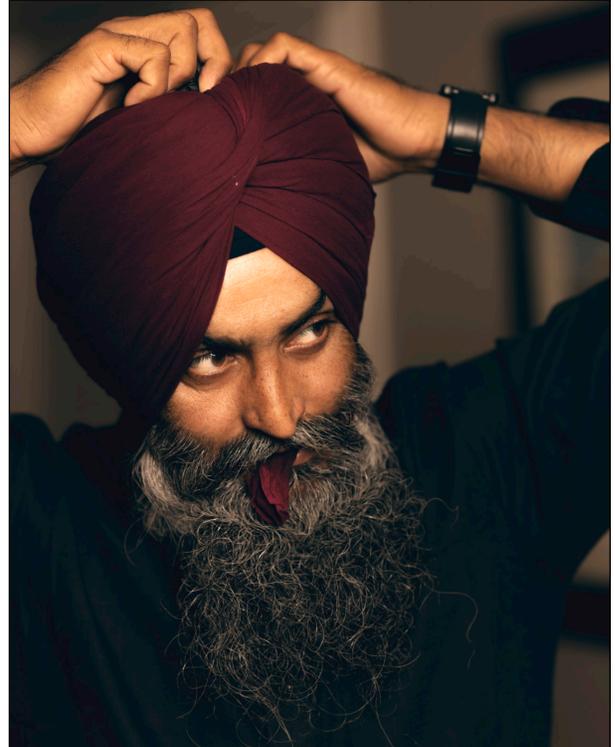
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The painter constructs, the photographer discloses.
— Susan Sontag

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Skills are never taught, they are acquired. I can give you a camera, but can't feed your vision.

– Raghv Rai

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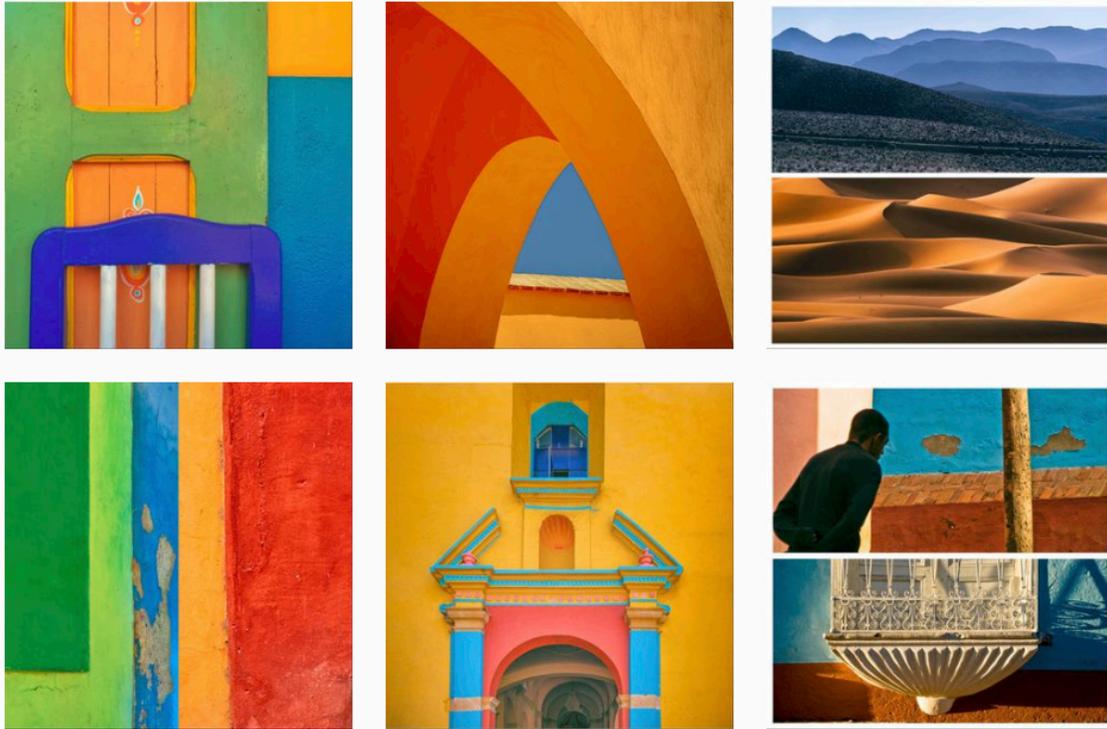


A photographic portrait is a picture of someone who knows he is being photographed, and what he does with this knowledge is as much a part of the photograph as what he's wearing or how he looks.

—Richard Avedon

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follow Richard Martin on [Instagram](#)

Richard Martin, The Photographer's Eye

"What I do is go out and react to things. I go out with a blank canvas. I let the pictures find me, and they do find me. I don't really find them. If I'm just relaxed, letting go, it all comes back to that thing that Dass said: I don't really care if I come back with pictures, I just want to be out making photographs."

On December 15 we were fortunate to host Richard Martin as our year-end guest speaker. For over two hours he very generously presented his work, explained his process, and answered our questions.

"There's nothing more important in photography than making mistakes. It's a natural stepping stone of progression."

Effusive, enthusiastic, and honest; Richard takes an open and playful approach to his photography. Over fifty of our members, alumni, and guests joined us for this evening, and many had personal connections and stories to share as well. We all thank him for an enlightening and entertaining evening.

"The art of seeing is the art of photography. Freeman Patterson talked about that, and it stuck with me. Really, that is the art, the way you see and compose."

You can view more of his work in the gallery section of his website, [Richard Martin Photo](#), or at [richard.martin.photo](#) on Instagram.

Sometimes you should dance with your camera.

– Richard Martin